

**From:** Cheng, Gloria (DPH)  
**Sent:** Friday, July 23, 2010 2:53 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Beverly (DPH); Belanger, Peter (DPH); BPHC Em Prep Director; Brown, Catherine (DPH); Calogero, Dina (DPH); Capps, Elizabeth (DPH); Carter, Deborah (DPH); Cheng, Gloria (DPH); Church, Daniel (DPH); Clark, Mary (DPH); Clarke, Roberta (DPH); Conley, Caryn (DPH); Connolly, Lawrence; Crowell, Danielle (DPH); DeMaria, Alfred (DPH); DiNatale, Margaret (DPH); Elvin, Paul (DPH); EMS liaison BRIC; Feeney, Mike (DPH); Gauthier, Cheryl (DPH); Gillis, John (DPH); Gordon, Gideon; Greer, Garry (DPH); Hall, Joshua (DPH); Han, Linda (DPH); Hennigan, Scott (DPH); Hussin, Ayman (DPH); Jenner, Jennifer (DPH); Joshi, Archana (DPH); Kane01, Peter (DPH); Kludt, Patricia (DPH); Konomi, Raimond (DPH); Krumholz, Glenn (DPH); LeClair, Erika (DPH); Madoff, Larry (DPH); Nassif, Julianne (DPH); Noddin, Linwood (DPH); Orsini, Olivia (DPH); Riggs, Ambryce (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH); Serrallier, Elizabeth (DPH); Servizio, Paul (DPH); Smole, Sandra (DPH); Stiles, Tracy (DPH); Stone, Samantha (DPH); Swanson, Tanya (DPH); Szymczak, Elizabeth (DPH); Condon, Cynthia (DPH); cynthia.condon@state.ma.us  
**Subject:** BTCT Meeting Minutes for July 20, 2010  
**Attachments:** Deb.Carter.Handout.7202010.jpg

Dear All,

Respectfully submitted and awaits your approval below is a draft of the BT/CT Meeting Minutes for July 20, 2010. Please email me back your corrections before July 27, 2010.

Thank you very much for your help in producing an accurate minutes.

Have a great weekend!

Best regards,

Gloria

BT/CT Meeting Minutes		MA Department of Public Health	
		Bureau of Laboratory Sciences	
Date:	July 20, 2010		
Start Time:	10:05 AM	End Time:	11:05 AM
Location:	William A. Hinton State Lab	Room:	133
Attendees:			
Paul Servizio, John Gillis, Tracy Stiles, Emily Harvey, Glenn Krumholz, Cindy Condon, Cheryl Gauthier, Scott Hennigan, Julie Nassif, Jennifer Jenner, Deborah Carter, Gloria Cheng, Elizabeth Capps.			
Recorded by:	Gloria Cheng		
Notes:	Special Announcement:  (1) For future BT/CT Meeting Agenda issues, please contact Gloria Cheng. (2) For future BT/CT Meeting Minutes, responsibility will be rotated.		
<b>Minutes</b>			
Agenda item:	The "Train the Trainer" Workshop	Presenter:	Deb Carter
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deb attended the workshop in Seattle. 18 total participants.</li> <li>- Wet workshop with prototype for the Sentinel Labs. Will customize for MA prior to implementation.</li> <li>- Discussed safety implications of handling suspected pathogenic organisms in clinical specimens and isolates, because of the tricky nature of questionable purity and reactivity of the samples.</li> <li>- Will teach trigger point to Sentinel Labs: when to stop working on bench top and to use BSC instead.</li> <li>- Learned how to teach adult learners using ADDIE (Analyze, Design, Develop, Implement, &amp; Evaluate).</li> <li>- Planning to get updated list of the Sentinel Labs, to learn about their needs and expectations.</li> <li>- Answered questions about automated assays used in the past: Talked about its limitations, and trigger points of using BSC for slow growers.</li> <li>- Answered question about the availability of BSC: (1) Most places have at least 1 BSC. (2) Trigger point for not working with certain cultures if no BSC is available.</li> </ul>		
Conclusions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Have much better idea now about what was hired to do.</li> <li>(2) Handout attached.</li> </ul>		
Action items	Person responsible	Target Date	
✓ Review and update Sentinel Lab list	Deb Carter	open	
✓ Adapt workshop prototype for the Sentinel Labs.	Deb Carter	open	
✓			
✓			
Agenda item:	BT Lab Environmental Surveillance	Presenter:	Cheryl Gauthier
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purpose is to monitor contamination of bioterrorism agents in the lab (1) to ensure safety of visitors, and (2) to provide forensic proof of no cross contamination.</li> <li>- No previously existed procedure in lab. Contacted few LRN labs with procedures for information. Drafted SOP. Approved in February 2009.</li> <li>- First test done this month: Collected 18 swab samples from various locations in the lab: such as doorknob, file cabinets. Swab areas mapped. No extra cleaning before the test.</li> <li>- No bioterrorism species found; but 5 had growth including incubator, refrigerator, countertop, ELISA plate shaker, and Victor 3 Platform.</li> </ul>		

- Surprised with Victor 3 Platform which had been cleaned a lot with 95% ethanol after each use.
- Obtained SEB baseline, even don't test often.
- Answered question about frequency of the practice: Depend upon workload, varied from quarterly, every 6 months, to once a year. Will adopt 6 month schedule.
- Answered question about if considering adding molecular component: Not sure if that tells anything.
- Answered question about swab method: Did 8 x 8, but difficulty with doorknobs. Will practice 4 x 4 in the future.
- Answered question regarding future practice based upon the test results: (1) Will clean more in certain areas, such as plate shaker and Victor 3 Platform; (2) Will test different areas in December; (3) Will sit down to discuss further improvement plan(s).

**Conclusions:** Good project. Happy with the results. Will further compile results.

Action items	Person responsible	Target Date
✓ Second test in December for different areas	Cheryl Gauthier	12/2010
✓ Further compile results and discuss improvement plan	Cheryl Gauthier	open
✓ More cleaning	BT Staff	open
✓		

Agenda item:	CDC Cyanide Surge Capacity Exercise	Presenter:	Julie Nassif
<b>Discussion:</b>			

- Call received Monday morning at 8 from CDC. Informed a case of food poisoning at a military base in Atlanta. Symptoms of shortness of breath, dizziness, & headache. Undisclosed number of death. Asked to start blood test for cyanide the next day.
- 300 samples received Tuesday at 10 am.
- Test performance was time based: From the moment of sample receiving to when reported last batch data.
- Operating on 24/7 mode: 12 hour shift with 7 staff plus Julie.
- Staffing issue: Not everyone can do all functions. Additional cross training recommended.
- Reported last batch Saturday night at 8:30.
- Slower method with problem of syringe clogging due to dirtier samples.
- Helpful CDC implementation of daily conference call for all labs to discuss progress and problems.
- As of yesterday, all 10 labs completed exercise except California and Michigan.
- California had Friday closing issue and instrument problems.
- Michigan had power and instrument failure issues. Reported only 1 batch of 30 samples so far. Under 24/7.
- In a real event, CDC may divert Michigan's samples.
- Heard another round of 6 clinical cyanide exercise within 30 days for cross network agencies.
- Answered question about no problems in real time reporting this time. Glad to use this opportunity to test out interface from different instrument with LIMS.

Conclusions:	Identified some areas for improvement.		
<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	

✓ Work out a more efficient plan to fully utilize staffs on a 24/7 mode	Julie Nassif	open
✓		
✓		
✓		

Agenda item:	FERN National Meeting	Presenter:	Tracy Stiles; Paul Servizio
<b>Discussion:</b>			

- About 400 people from different states attended – from novice to veteran.
- Topic covered from basic 101s to advanced procedures and methods.
- Format ranged from regional breakouts to topic specific groups.
- First time for Tracy: Basic information gathering.
- From a chemist aspect, Paul was more into method development: Looked into differences in methods, such as using GC/MS vs LC/MS, as well as different derivatization agents.
- Focus was to push for more rigorous PT, such as to replace the current voluntary PT program.
- Talked about on-going testing for melamine and its history.
- Working towards better cohesion among networks to allow method transfer across networks.
- Talked about method for oil in the gulf.
- APHL working group for new method is meeting every 2 weeks by conference call to improve method for detecting oil contamination in food. Current 1980's method analyzes 20 samples per week per lab.

Conclusions:	Huge meeting with many topics to choose from. Good opportunity to learn a lot & who is involved.		
<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	

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Agenda item:	Section Updates - Epidemiology	Presenter:	Emily Harvey
<b>Discussion:</b>			

No updates.

Conclusions:			
<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	

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Agenda item:	Section Updates – Molecular Diagnostic and Virology	Presenter:	Glenn Krumholz & Scott Hennigan															
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reported transition to faster, more modern, &amp; real time PCR to replace an almost 10 year-old machine. Helpful for fewer problems and less maintenance calls.</li> <li>- Aiming for fewer platforms with more applications.</li> <li>- Picking up West Nile, and EEE from mosquitoes, typical for the season.</li> </ul>																	
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Agenda item:	Section Updates – BT Lab	Presenter:	Cheryl Gauthier															
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Added Cindy Condon to the list, who is TRF guru and being cross trained. Welcome to the team.</li> <li>- Last week being contacted by UMass Medical Center. A 77 year old woman had lesion on hand picked up potentially anthrax from organic Peru yarn she was knitting with. Culture negative but patient was on antibiotics for 24 hours prior to collection. Currently testing yarns cut from the knitted sweater. Will read the plate together after the meeting as a team.</li> <li>- Discussed who should be contacted as the possible regulatory agency if the yarn turns out positive.</li> <li>- Patient has been treated and discharged.</li> </ul>																	
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Agenda item:	Updates – White Powder Transport Issue	Presenter:	Julie Nassif															
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contacted Jim Connolly, Acting Lab Director for State Police Lab, who will talk to Colonel Matthews to find out who will be the appropriate person to contact for future transport handling policy.</li> <li>- Discussed responsible party for transport delivery: state trooper, responding police department (state or Wakefield), incident commander at site, local fire department. Commander usually calls Hazmat, but the Hazmat doesn't transport samples. Have to figure out the last piece.</li> </ul>																	
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Agenda item:	Section Updates - Bacteriology	Presenter:	Tracy Stiles															
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Next week starts the 4<sup>th</sup> and hopefully the final FERN Triage Exercise.</li> <li>- 5 samples of some food that supposedly have been contaminated with 1 of 7 organisms or 1 of 3-ish toxins.</li> <li>- First time real time reporting.</li> <li>- Will receive samples on Tuesday. Testing starts on Wednesday.</li> <li>- May involve Cheryl's group for confirmation assistance.</li> <li>- Lots of ELISA, PCR, Reporting. Looking for everything, not just for few targets, because of the nature of foods.</li> <li>- Every other week live conference with Triage Group scheduled for this Thursday. Will go over protocols, details, and reporting procedure. Email or phone call as possible reporting mechanisms.</li> <li>- Most updated new draft procedure came out last Friday.</li> </ul>																	
Conclusions:	Will be very busy next week with the exercise.																	
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<i><b>Other Information</b></i>																		
Special notes:																		
Handout from Deb Carter is attached.																		